

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 09/934,031

Confirmation No.: 7794

Filed: 20 August 2001

For: REMOVABLE RETROREFLECTIVE MATERIAL

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of making an article, the method comprising:
- providing a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the single layer backing is medical tape having a non-woven backing, and wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive;
 - covering the a non-adhesive side of the a pressure-sensitive adhesive tape with retroreflective beads; and
 - applying heat and pressure to melt and partially embed the retroreflective beads into the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing without the use of an additional adhesive or a resin.
16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.

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18. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 15, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the non-adhesive side of the pressure-sensitive adhesive tape.
19. **(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)** A method of making an article, the method comprising:
providing a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the single layer backing is medical tape having a foam backing, and wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive;
covering the non-adhesive a first side of the a foam backing with retroreflective beads; and
applying heat and pressure to melt and partially embed the retroreflective beads into the first side of the foam backing, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing without the use of an additional adhesive or a resin.
20. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.
21. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.
22. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 19, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads into the first side of the foam backing.

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23-37. (Canceled)

38. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method of using an article ~~a pressure sensitive adhesive tape, the method~~ comprising:

~~providing an article according to claim 42 covering a non-adhesive side of the pressure sensitive adhesive tape with retroreflective beads;~~

~~applying heat and pressure to melt the retroreflective beads into the non-adhesive side of the pressure sensitive adhesive tape; and~~

~~removably attaching the article pressure sensitive adhesive tape to human skin or clothing.~~

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise glass beads coated with aluminum, wherein each glass bead is coated with aluminum on approximately half of a glass bead surface area.

40. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A The method of using an article claim 38, the method comprising:

providing an article according to claim 44; and

removably attaching the article to human skin or clothing

~~wherein the retroreflective beads are fully aluminum coated glass beads, the method further comprising etching aluminum from exposed surfaces of the retroreflective beads.~~

41. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A The method of using an article claim 38, the method comprising:

providing an article according to claim 48; and

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removably attaching the article to human skin or clothing

~~wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the non-adhesive side of the pressure sensitive adhesive tape.~~

42. **(Currently Amended)** An article comprising:

a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side,
wherein the single layer backing is medical tape having a foam backing, and wherein the
adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive, and

a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the non-adhesive
side of the single layer backing, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially
held in place in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing without the use of an
additional adhesive or a resin.

43. **(Canceled)**

44. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An~~ The article of claim 42 comprising:

a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side,
wherein the single layer backing is medical tape having a non-woven backing, and
wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive, and
a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the non-adhesive
side of the single layer backing, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially
held in place in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing without the use of an
additional adhesive or a resin.

45. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 42, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads
exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a

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final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

46. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 42, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.

47. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 42, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.

48. **(Previously Presented)** An article comprising:
a foam backing including first and second sides with the proviso that there are no intervening layers in the foam between the first and second sides;
a pressure-sensitive adhesive material covering the first side; and
a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the second side, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise a coating comprising aluminum.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 48, wherein the article is made by the process of:
coating the first side of the foam backing with the pressure-sensitive adhesive

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material;

covering the second side of the foam backing with retroreflective beads; and

applying heat and pressure to partially embed the retroreflective beads in the second side of the foam backing.

50. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 49, wherein applying heat and pressure comprises laminating the retroreflective beads onto the second side of the foam backing.
51. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 48, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
52. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 48, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
53. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 48, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.

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54. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 48, wherein the foam backing comprises a closed-cell cross-linked foam.
55. **(Previously Presented)** An article comprising:
a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side,
wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive; and
a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing, wherein the retroreflective beads comprise a coating comprising aluminum, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750.
56. **(Previously Presented)** The article of claim 55, wherein the single layer backing includes a foam backing.
57. **(Previously Presented)** The article claim 55, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than ninety percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is greater than 5000.
58. **(Previously Presented)** An article comprising:
a foam backing including first and second sides with the proviso that there are no intervening layers in the foam between the first and second sides;
a pressure-sensitive adhesive material covering the first side; and
a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the second side,

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wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place in the first side of the foam backing without the use of an adhesive or a resin.

59. **(Previously Presented)** An article comprising:

a single layer backing comprising an adhesive side and a non-adhesive side, wherein the adhesive side is coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive; and

a layer of retroreflective beads that are partially embedded in the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing, wherein the layer of retroreflective beads exhibits an initial reflective brightness prior to being subjected to abrasion cycles and a final reflective brightness after being subjected to a number of abrasion cycles, wherein the final reflective brightness is greater than seventy percent of the initial reflective brightness when the number of abrasion cycles is approximately 750, and further wherein the layer of retroreflective beads is substantially held in place on the non-adhesive side of the single layer backing without the use of an adhesive or resin.